

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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***For Immediate Release***

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2004**

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 24, 2004, **GEORGE RUSH, III**, age 23, of Mt. Vernon, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. RUSH was sentenced to 235 months imprisonment, 6 years supervised release, and was fined \$3,000.

RUSH had previously pleaded guilty to three counts of knowingly and intentionally distributing crack cocaine. The offenses occurred in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

The investigation in this case was a cooperative effort between the Joint Narcotics Unit of the Mt. Vernon Police Department and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. In addition, the Jefferson County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a joint and cooperative effort of the United States Attorney's Office, the Jefferson County State's Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, and Illinois State Police directed at removing guns and drugs from our communities.

The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.